

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-22 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants' counsel wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on May 25, 2004. The following remarks record the substance of the interview at which agreement was reached with respect to the allowability of the claims.

In the Office Actions, claims 1-12 and 14-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner rejected to the limitation in claim 1 wherein the substrate holder has a spacing from an upper surface of the holder to an upper surface of spheres on which the substrate rests that is substantially equal to a standard thickness of the substrate type being used, with the spacing thereby defining a calibrating spacing for the standard thickness. This spacing, i.e., from an upper surface of the spheres (for example no. 48 in Fig. 5) to the upper surface 42 of the substrate holder is designed to correspond substantially to the standard thickness of the substrate type for the particular holder (see page 7, lines 12-16). Of course, substrate types are defined in accordance with a standard (see page 7, lines 16-20).

Because of the known size of the spacing, i.e., corresponding to a standard type of substrate, it is possible to use this spacing to calibrate whether the substrate itself has a standard thickness. As discussed during the interview, any deviations from the standard thickness can be accounted for in the measuring instrument by using its optical system to focus first on the surface of the

substrate, and then on the flat upper surface of the substrate holder. The difference in focal positions makes it possible to ascertain a thickness deviation of the substrate (see page 3, lines 14-21). In that regard, the spacing is therefore used to calibrate or determine the deviation of a substrate thickness from a predefined standard thickness (see page 2, lines 21-25).

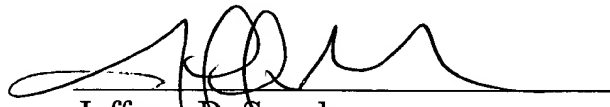
In view of the above, Applicants submit the specification contains a complete written description of the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Hence, Applicants respectfully request that the final rejection be withdrawn and the pending claims 1-12 and 14-22 be passed to allowance.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #2098L/49301).

Respectfully submitted,

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